

WINNIPEG AUDITORIUM

*George*  
**FORMBY**

*and his*  
LONDON  
MUSIC HALL  
VARIETIES



*October 18, 19 and 20*

1949

The London Music Hall Varieties is presented in Winnipeg by Celebrity Concert Series Ltd. and A. K. Cee

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# George FORMBY

## Biographic Notes

### GEORGE FORMBY OLD FRIEND OF ALLIED FORCES

GEORGE FORMBY, Britain's leading comedy star of stage and screen, holds a particularly warm place in the hearts of ex-service men and women of the Allied Forces, in addition to the fact that he has also consistently headed, year after year, the "Motion Picture Herald" popularity poll as the top British box-office attraction. A highlight of his every performance for the Allied Forces was the shouted requests for war-time favorite songs from veterans in the audience who remembered vividly his camp show appearances. With his wife Beryl, Mr. Formby accompanied British troops to France at the outbreak of war. When the Germans broke through in their initial triumphant drive to Dunkirk, the Formbys were the last two civilians to leave in the historic retreat as their troopship was bombed from the air during the entire trip across the Channel. But

when the British, American and Canadian forces returned for the Normandy invasion, George Formby advanced with the front-line troops, highly commended by General Montgomery.

### NO STRANGER TO THE ROYAL FAMILY

As a music hall, stage and pantomime star for many years, in addition to over a decade in films, George Formby has appeared in seven Royal Command performances at famed Albert Hall, London; and at ten Royal Command performances at Windsor Castle. At these latter, he always sings ten songs to his own musical accompaniment; the first being the King's favorite, then the Queen's, and these followed by Princess Elizabeth's and Princess Margaret's.

### JOCKEY FIRST PROFESSIONAL CAREER

George Formby started his professional career as an apprentice jockey, and at ten was riding winners for such prominent horse owners as Lord Derby. But be-

(Continued on Page 6)

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## Who's Who in the Varieties

CYNTHIA AND GLADYS, a team of novelty balancing with beauty combined, has been currently headlining in all of London's leading theatres. The Royal seal of merit was placed on this outstanding act when Cynthia and Gladys appeared at the recent Royal Command performance at the London Palladium.

GUUS BROX AND MYRNA, who originally hailed from Holland, are another man and wife team of the show. Guus Brox is a comedian, dancer, acrobat and aerialist, but it is as a comedy concertina player that he is now best-known to his great host of followers. Long before his arrival in England, he was already famous throughout Europe, then followed his appearances with his wife at Allied camp shows after the Normandy invasion.

MEDLOCK AND MARLOWE, young comedy and novelty dance team, has appeared with such outstanding stage successes in the West End of London as "Apple Sausage" at the Palladium; "Hi de Hi" at the Palace; and "Follow the Girls" at His Majesty's. In between, they have played all the larger theatres throughout the United Kingdom and principal theatres in France, Italy, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Their cabaret engagements have included such night-spots as Dorchester House and Grosvenor House in London.

## GEORGE FORMBY and his LONDON MUSIC HALL VARIETIES

### Programme

1. CYNTHIA & GLADYS .....  
*Beauty with Balance*  
A balancing act competing two young ladies direct from London Music Hall stages.
2. GUUS BROX & MYRNA .....  
*The Famous Musical Cleave*  
These two British vaudeville headliners are sworn to the memory of Canadian ex-service men and women who saw them during war-weary rest periods behind the lines during the Allied campaign in Europe.
3. MEDLOCK & MARLOWE .....  
*Just Knocking Around*  
Canadian ex-service men and women will also remember this famous comedy and dance team's appearances in France and Italy with Odey Courtstidge and Florence Desmond.
4. THE HUMORESQUES .....  
*Radio's Happy Humors*  
These Londoners and an Irishman comprise the vocal quartet of The Humoresques—a true presentation of the ever-popular form of British vaudeville.
5. MEDLOCK & MARLOWE .....  
*Dance Moments*
6. ROBERT HARBIN .....  
*The Sensational Harbin*  
This act, with Robert Harbin, Britain's funniest magician, and his wife, is recognized as one of the most baffling illusions to be seen on this side of the Atlantic.
7. ALAN CLIVE .....  
*The Host of Stars*  
As well as having played the London Palladium, Alan Clive, tenor-soprano and mimic of the British stage, has also participated in command performances.
8. GEORGE FORMBY .....  
*With New and Old Favorites*

Program subject to change without notice.

COMPANY MANAGER ..... H. L. Appleby  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR ..... Harry Colby  
CANADIAN TOUR DIRECTION ..... Ernest M. Rowley  
WESTERN CANADIAN TOUR MANAGEMENT ..... A. K. Gee

INTERMISSION

THE HUMORESQUES, a vocal quartet of two young ladies and two young men, have been called by certain critics The Merry Maids of British radio. Elizabeth Kaye and Renee Champion first met when they were members of a British Army Show in India during the war. They then teamed up as a double singing act, with doubling at the piano. Back in England, they then teamed up with Paddy Schaeck and Nick Dermuth to form the present Humoresques. Then followed a successful tour of Austria and Germany last January as an interlude to their stage, concert and radio appearances in Britain.

ROBERT HARBIN, who served as a major in the Middle East during the recent war, has been currently bewildering Britain's vaudeville-goers with his bewitching powers of the supernatural, defying all explanation. One of his most baffling illusion acts is "the sawing of a woman in half", in which feat Mr. Harbin's stage partner, his wife, assists him. Before joining George Formby's "London Music Hall Varieties", Mr. Harbin and his wife were headlining at the famous Palladium Theatre in London, Britain's vaudeville mecca.

ALAN CLIVE, impressionist and mimic of the British stage has, during the past 14 months, appeared in all the biggest theatres and night clubs in the United Kingdom. This spring, he was summoned to Windsor Castle to entertain Their Majesties and Princess Elizabeth. This was followed by a three-weeks' engagement at the London Palladium, and a nineteen-weeks' tour of Britain's largest vaudeville theatres.

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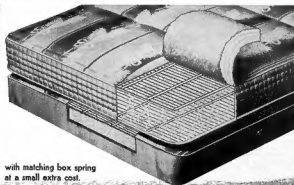
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ROBERT MERRILL, baritone.....	Thurs. Nov. 17
PERCY GRAINGER, pianist.....	Sat. Nov. 20
KENNETH SPENCER, bass-baritone.....	Sat. Jan. 7
EUGENE LIST, CARROLL GLENN, pianist and violinist.....	Wed., Jan. 10
JUSSI BJOERLING, tenor.....	Tues. Jan. 24
SAMSON, FRANCOIS, pianist.....	Mon., Feb. 13
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GEORGE FORMBY—Continued from Page 3

slides straight-out racing and steeplechase prowess, young Formby had other talents—he could sing, play a banjo or a ukulele, and make listeners laugh at his drolleries. George Formby went into vaudeville. From provincial theatres, he progressed to the great music halls of London; in eighteen months, George Formby had reached stage stardom—and he has remained away up there ever since.

#### Busy Life or Tours

During the past two seasons, he has intefuded his London engagements with tours of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. He has just completed a tour of the Scandioavian countries where, despite the language barrier, he was received with enthusiastic receptions. This coast-to-coast tour marks his first visit to

COMING! . . . PLAYHOUSE . . . November 28 to December 3

## “THE HASTY HEART”

BY JOHN PATRICK

Play, Cast and Director  
selected by The Theatre  
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Produced by John Rust,  
Supervisor of “The Theatre  
Guild on the Air” for U.S.  
Steel.

“THE HASTY HEART,” hailed by the N.Y. critics, is a play about people who just happen to be involved in a war. Centring around a young Scotch soldier, a man of fierce surrogates and long-nurtured bitterness who has a distrust of the whole human race, **THE HASTY HEART** is a warming and deeply affecting play. It is at once tense - tough - and tender, an ideal mixture of pathos and comedy. The author served as a volunteer ambulance driver with the British army in Burma. His experiences there enabled him to bring us a masterful and moving play which strengthens our faith in the essential decency of man. Burns Mantle included **THE HASTY HEART** in his famous annual selection of the Ten Best Plays of the American theatre.

The Theatre Guild of New York is, in the opinion of many American and European critics, the foremost producing organization today—(“OKLAHOMA!”, “CAROUSEL”, “ALLEGRO”), are a few of their outstanding hits. The Theatre Guild selected the cast and director for **THE HASTY HEART**'s appearance in Winnipeg, which is made possible through the co-operation of the Department of Concerts and Lectures of the University of Minnesota.

Tickets for **THE HASTY HEART** will be obtainable at GEE RECORD SHOP in November. Please watch for newspaper announcements concerning details. DON'T MISS SEEING “THE HASTY HEART”!  
A. K. Gee.



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